

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-seventh.



PROCLAMATION 4219

World Environment Day

June 4, 1973

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As the astronauts of Skylab I orbit the earth in America's first manned space station, we are mindful once again of the essential unity of mankind—bound together by the finite resources of one small planet. One of the chief concerns of this and subsequent space missions will be the resources of the earth and the quality of its environment. As before, our findings will form the basis for positive contributions to our fellow man.

But we do not have to rely upon the results of space research to improve the earth's environment. All men and women have a personal role to play in this vital endeavor. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held last June, with the participation of one hundred and thirteen nations, was a reflection of the increased understanding of all mankind that environmental quality is everybody's business—superseding any temporary differences which may hamper relations between nations.

In response to a resolution of the Conference on the Human Environment, the United Nations General Assembly last December endorsed a recommendation reading, in part, as follows:

"The General Assembly . . . designates 5 June as World Environment Day and urges Governments and the organizations in the United Nations System to undertake on that day every year world-wide activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment, with a view to deepening environmental awareness and to pursuing the determination expressed at the Conference."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do, in support of the action of the United Nations General Assembly, call on the people of the United States and United States Government agencies to observe June 5 as World Environ-

ment Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities emphasizing the concern of Americans for a better environment in which to live.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of June in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-seventh.



PROCLAMATION 4220

Flag Day and National Flag Week, 1973

By the President of the United States of America

June 8, 1973

A Proclamation

The outcome of the American Revolution was far from settled on June 14, 1777, when the Congress resolved that the flag of the United States should have 13 stripes, alternating red and white, and 13 white stars in a field of blue “representing the new constellation.”

The creation of this fresh banner in a New World where European powers long had contended for domination signified the new unity of the American people and their determination to win their independence.

Although the constellation of stars has expanded from 13 to 50 since the 18th century, the flag we revere today has changed very little in the intervening 196 years. It continues to represent our common devotion to the principles of freedom and equality which have sustained Americans ever since those uncertain days when independence was yet to be won.

To commemorate the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as our country's flag, the Congress, by a joint resolution of August 3, 1949 (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as Flag Day and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its observance. The Congress has also requested the President, by a joint resolution of June 9, 1966 (80 Stat. 194), to issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as National Flag Week and calling upon all the citizens of the United States to fly the flag of the United States on the days of that week.

36 USC 157.

36 USC 157a.